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## THE STYRAX.

**S**TYRAX is the name of a genus which embraces a number of species of shrubs or small trees. Three of these species are natives of this country, growing from Virginia southward. These native shrubs do not bloom sufficiently freely to make them attractive as cultivated plants.

*Styrax officinale*, a tree growing in the Mediterranean region, produces the gum or balsam known as Storax, a substance used medicinally. A somewhat similar balsam, known as Benzoin, is derived from the *Styrax Benzoin*, which grows in the Molucca Islands. The snow drop, or silver-bell tree, of this country, *Halesia tetraptera*, belongs to the Storax family, and all who are acquainted with it know its neat habit of growth, and its handsome appearance when in flower in the spring.

Japan has furnished us with some species of styrax which are handsome ornamental shrubs or trees. One of these is *Styrax serrulata*, which is more commonly known in the trade as *S. Japonica*. *Styrax obassia* is a later introduction, and the illustration now given of it shows how handsome an object it may be, especially when in bloom. Plants of it in this country have not yet attained much size, and consequently a detailed description of it under cultivation cannot here be given.

Mr. Samuel C. Moon, of Morrisville, Pa., to whom we are indebted for the illustration, and who is raising the plants, and also those of *S. Japonica*, has supplied the following description of the latter:

*Styrax Japonica* is one of the very desirable hardy flowering shrubs or small, bushy trees of recent introduction. Some of its characteristics, which render it valuable, are a free, vigorous and symmetrical habit of growth; it sends up a straight

leading stem, well furnished with light, twiggy branches. It blooms freely all along the branches, the flowers depending by slender pedicils. The white, bell-shaped corolla is about one inch in diameter, with yellow stamens. It is an early summer bloomer, flowering about with the spiræas and weigelas. The fruit is a small, round ball containing two brown seeds closely resembling in size, shape and color unroasted coffee. The little rough-coated balls dangling on slender stems, are an

interesting feature during the summer and early autumn. The leaves are rather small, acuminate, serrated, a clear, bright green. Altogether it is a neat, attractive plant at all times, and thus far appears to be free from the attacks of blight, disease or insect pests.

Botanically it is nearly related to the *halesia* and differs from its American cousin in being more compact and symmetrical in habit of growth, blooming a little later, with smaller leaves and flowers and fruit. The largest plants that have come under my observation are about ten years old, and are nearly twelve feet high. They are still growing upward vigorously, and look as though they might double in size in the next decade. It is a plant well furnished with fibrous roots and is easy to transplant and apparently not very fastidious in its requirements. The plants seed freely after they are three or four years old. The seeds are very hard and require two years to germinate, but if they are properly preserved in moist condition until the second spring they sprout freely and make fine growth that season. At present the stock of styrax in American nurseries is limited but as soon as it becomes

better known and more plentiful, it will quickly assume a prominent place among the best large-sized flowering shrubs.



STYRAX OBASSIA.

## WHERE TO CUT IN PRUNING.

**T**HE object of this article is to lay down several simple rules, of a general nature, for pruning trees, shrubs, etc., that it would be well for every tree owner to keep in mind. As to trees, go along the better residence streets of our older towns, and nothing is more common than to meet with street and other trees that have been crippled and their lives shortened by bad pruning. The same is true of many apple and other

orchard trees. One reason for this is that tree owners feel ignorant of their ability to direct the work, and so they trust the job to some pretending tree pruner who proves to be a tree butcher. Of this class of men, totally incompetent to undertake what they profess to understand, there are many; the amount of havoc they have wrought is amazing. Let us take the common case of pruning a branch, from a shade or fruit tree,



as illustrated in figure 1 annexed. The ignorant pruner sees little difference as to where the branch to the right is cut, whether at the cross-line *a*, *b*, or *c*, so long as he gets rid of the branch. We design to make it clear, that the place of sawing off is of the greatest importance; it may mean a quickly-healing scar, or it may mean instead a blow at the very vitality and strength of the tree. There is nothing vague or mysterious about the matter; it has but to do with common sense.

In our engraving, *a* shows the proper place to saw off the branch. It is just

a contrast between this and a cut as at *a* which long ago grew over so perfectly as no longer to even indicate the place of the former branch.

And yet simple as is this matter, thousands of valuable trees are made every year to suffer with early death by such blundering pruning. Is it not time that this word of warning be sounded abroad through our land?

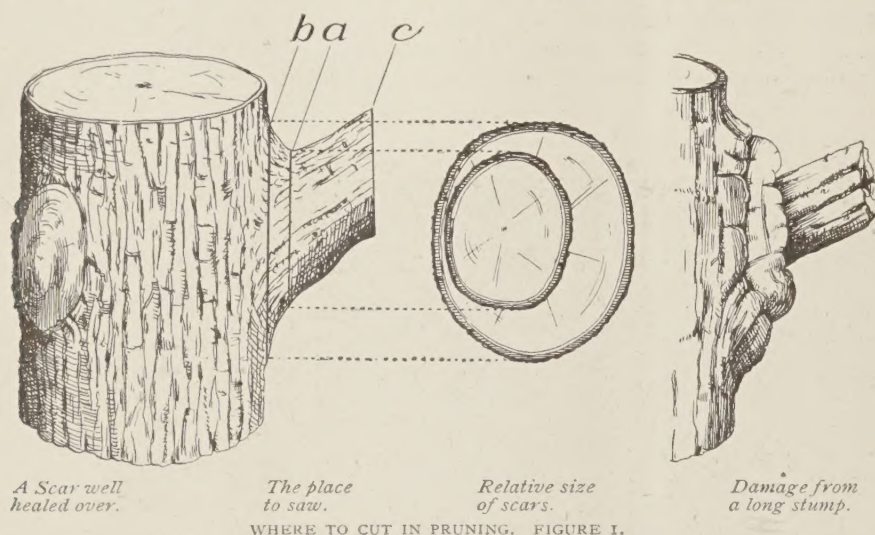
PRUNING SHRUBS AND VINES.—Next we will consider an equally common, if not so dangerous, case of pruning, regarding which many amateurs need a little light. Many come to their shrubs,

which will, under favorable circumstances, be loaded with bloom. No diminution in the crop will have resulted from cutting back to a few buds, but instead the product will be much finer than if no pruning had taken place.

The lesson briefly summed up is this: Prune off the first named class very sparingly, or not at all, in the spring, beyond removing any dead or superfluous wood. This class includes the following well known kinds: Fruit trees and nearly all flowering trees, ornamental almonds, plums, cherries, currants, lilacs, mock oranges, weigelas, calycanthus, dogwood, forsythias, honeysuckle, deutzia, Japan quince, privets, viburnums, azaleas, kalmias, rhododendrons, daphnes, etc. The best time to prune the foregoing is immediately after flowering.

Regarding the other class named, prune, as a rule, either in the fall or else in the spring. In the grape, for instance, let the canes be cut back to two buds, as at *a*, in figure 2, instead of at *b*, as the timid would be likely to prune. The grape is now so widely cultivated that the importance of right ideas regarding pruning can hardly be over emphasized.

Some of our other most important shrubs belong to this class, and subject to the same general rule, less rigidly applied than in the case of the grape. Of such we will name Althæas or rose of Sharon, amorpha, burning bush, bladder senna, camellias, genistas, hydrangeas, hypericums, locusts, spiræas and roses. Of these the hydrangea will stand very close



WHERE TO CUT IN PRUNING. FIGURE 1.

where the branch begins to swell in its contact with the tree. To cut here or to cut at the cross line *b*, for instance, makes a great difference in the size of the scar to be later covered with growing bark. In a thrifty tree, the smaller scar made by cutting at *a* would soon be grown over smoothly with new bark, as shown by a covered scar to the left on the trunk illustrated. With a larger scar there would be danger of its not growing over before decay and weakness would set into the tree.

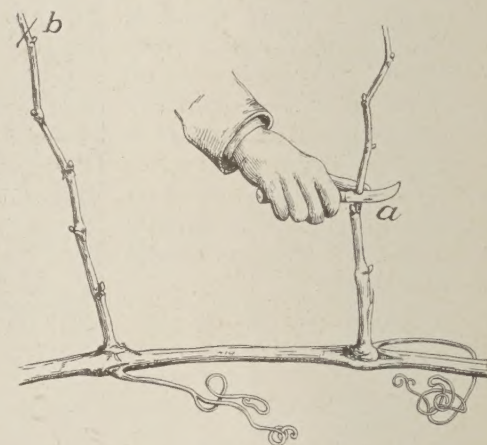
Let it not be thought that because the place *a* is an inch or more away from the line of the tree trunk, that a bad protuberance will later be formed at this point. We have but to bear in mind that layer upon layer of growth is added to the wood of the trunk on all sides, while no similar layers are added over the scar, hence in a few years the surface will be nearly or quite evened up.

The worst place at which to cut is at *c*, as shown, for this leaves a stump that utterly prevents the growing over of the place of sawing. One stage of the result is shown at the right in the engraving, which represents the stump, several years after the branch was severed, a decaying stub. At a later stage this stub will have decayed sufficiently to admit air and moisture into the tree; still later this will be followed by a hollowed trunk and weakness. Twenty years from pruning may see the weakened tree wrenched off in a storm, with its career ended. What

grape-vines, etc., in the spring, hardly knowing how or where to prune. It is not the purpose here to go into many details, but one useful general rule, which the annexed figure 2 will serve to illustrate, will be presented. The idea is to fit the pruning to the habit of growth. What is meant by habit of growth in this instance, is explained as follows:

Among hardy shrubs and vines grown for ornament and fruit, we find that certain ones produce their bloom directly from buds that were formed the previous season; while others flower from buds that appear on new branches of the present season's growth. Of the former we may instance nearly all kinds of fruit trees, as well as many flowering shrubs, of which let us mention the flowering almond as an example. Take a branch of the flowering almond that has, say, thirty buds; cut it back to two or three buds and only a few flowers will follow, because you have cut away nearly all of the flowering buds.

Of the other class referred to let us take the grape-vine, figure 2, or the hardy plumed hydrangea, as an example. In these, as stated, the new bloom proceeds from buds on new branches of the same season's growth. Thus if a branch of hydrangea likewise has thirty buds, the same as did the flowering almond referred to, and we likewise cut this back to two or three buds, the result will be quite different. From the two or three buds that remain there will spring up new branches,



WHERE TO CUT IN PRUNING. FIGURE 2.

pruning. Roses should be pruned according to their vigor; as a rule the stronger the growth the less should be the pruning, varying this by cutting from about one-half to two-thirds of the last season's growth, according to vigor. In the case of climbing roses or other vines, including the grape, it becomes necessary, of course, to provide leading branches that are not to be cut back annually. The annual cutting in such cases applies only to the side branches.

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Plenty of flowers in and around a home have a soothing influence on all its inmates.



### THE WISTARIA AS A STANDARD.

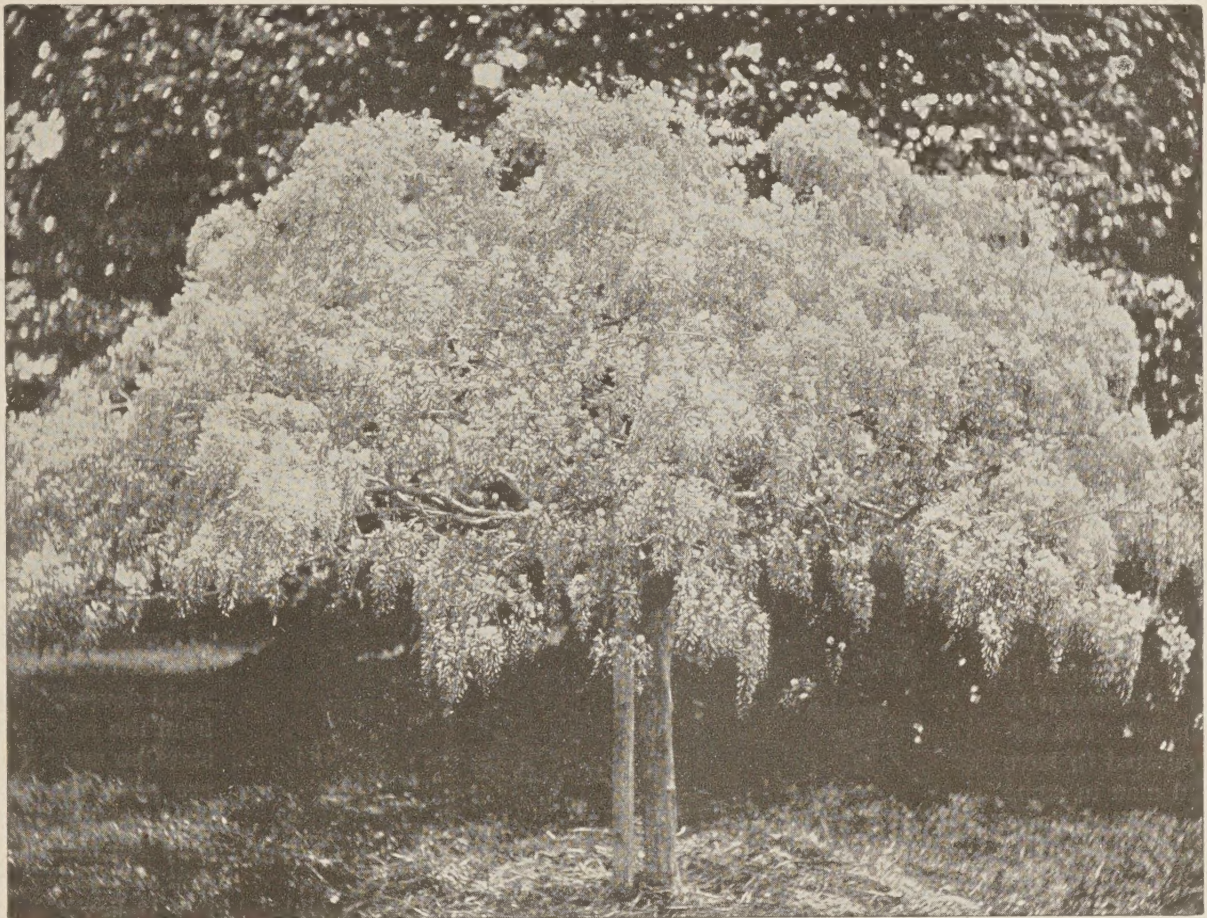
**T**HE Chinese wistaria grown in tree form makes a handsome lawn specimen,—a most beautiful sight when in bloom, but of fine appearance at all times, as its foliage always presents an attractive appearance. A young plant set in the ground where it is wanted can be trained up to a single stem, supported by a rod, until it reaches the desired height, about eight or nine feet. Then the end can be pinched off, causing a number of branches to start out. By repeated pinchings the head in a few years will be formed. A framework at the top of the rod or post will give the head any need support, but in time the wood will become strong and nearly or quite self-supporting.

never be left out in the race for novelties. A clump once set will last forever I think, and I for one am always glad to see these lilies when the summer brings them once more. Three or four years ago I dropped a bulblet or two in the earth; the next summer there was a single leaf, the next a stem a foot or more high with a small flower or two; this year it is five feet and it has nineteen buds, this being, I think, the third season of growth. With plenty of rain it would have been a foot or two taller, no doubt. It shares a bed made for an auratum and the deep soil made for the latter has been good for it.

Last year the seed of *Baptisia tinctoria*, sent from Rhode Island where it grows wild, came up here, and now the yearling

nual just beginning to show its crimson spikes. It selfsows freely but starts so late you are likely to think it does not. It grows as high as your head and then droops its flowers to the ground. Some plants bear long strings of red balls an inch or more through; others have great branching plumes. It should be sheltered from heavy winds and have a rich soil.

JULY 24th.—Now comes the bloom of *Lilium auratum*; its great buds have been swelling and whitening for some days. The cluster of buds at the summit of the stems has the appearance of a flock of birds, from a little distance. This magnificent lily is complained of as not entirely hardy and reliable, but I believe that if home-grown bulbs were used instead of



CHINESE WISTARIA GROWN IN TREE FORM.

### SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

**J**ULY 17th.—This season I sowed a packet of squirrel tail grass, *Hordeum jubatum*, a species native to this country. It is a pretty grass, of slender growth and its heads are like small heads of barley, to which it is related, both being of the same genus. But instead of the harsh, rough beard of barley the awns of the *jubatum* are very fine and smooth, and soft as silk, at least when green. It will be good to use along with everlasting flowers, and seems easy to grow. The *Stipa pennata* (Feather grass) is more difficult to start.

JULY 19th.—Now comes the bloom of the tiger lily, a good old plant, which should

plant, a foot high, is in flower. It has an immense number of slender branches clothed with thick, shining, clover-like leaves without stems, and there are many erect spikes of bright yellow pea flowers, a neat and pretty little thing worth cultivating where it is not found wild. The *Asclepias tuberosa* is nearly out of flower, a few days more and only the young pods will remain.

The Golden Queen raspberry, now in season, is little else than a yellow Cuthbert; with your eyes shut you could not tell the difference; but red and yellow berries in the same dish are pleasing to the eye and a few bushes for this use are in order.

The *Amaranthus Gibosus* is a huge an-

those imported from Japan there would be much less trouble. Weakened by their long voyage and attacked perhaps by moulds and mildew, they, in too many cases, can only put forth the flowers they already contain, and then die without propagating. Several that I ordered went this way, but when I got a little bulb which grew in the vicinity there was no more trouble; it seems perfectly hardy and as easily grown as the old tiger lily. I dug a hole deep into the subsoil, draining it by a ditch filled with broken stone, filling it with leaf mold from a place where wild red raspberries had grown for many years, setting the bulbs a foot deep. It flowered well the next summer; the next its tender stem got broken off and it grew



no more that year; the frost of May 12th last year killed its buds, or it didn't intend to bloom, I never knew which. This season it has two stems three feet high and seven buds and flowers. The bed it grows in is snow-covered while there is snow any where, which may be better than bare ground in winter would be, and it is my impression that I have sometimes put fine manure or chip dirt on it as winter came on. The offsets are coming on, and I imagine I have the auratum for life, a plant certainly worth having. The fragrance is delightful; in short every one should attempt its culture, and keep on attempting until it is established.

I am of two minds about the great moon-penny daisy, *Chrysanthemum maximum*; sometimes I almost resolve to tear it up and get rid of it, then I weaken a little and let it stand. It has been in bloom a long time and will be for a long time yet. The foliage is certainly good, dark green, smooth and shining, and it makes a great show, thirty or fifty great white oxeye-daisy-like flowers in bloom at once on stiff stems high above the leaves, the hardiest of the hardy, almost evergreen in winter. It does not self-sow so far as I have seen.

E. S. GILBERT.

#### GARDEN NOTES.

**C**AULIFLOWER—The Flower of the Vegetable Garden.—My Lord Bacon was a genuine lover of a garden, else he could not, would not, have said "A garden is the purest of human pleasures; it is the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man." The talented lord is reputed to have been a very bad man in some respects, but he could not have been teetotally bad. It is quite probable that he was not half as bad as his enemies tried to make it appear. Anyhow, no one will deny that he was a man of intelligence and a true lover of Nature, and he was a very excellent gardener. Being a lawyer it was quite possible that he was not altogether what he should have been, but in view of his qualities as a gardener, and for the sake of the pretty things he has said about the garden and the pleasure that it affords many mortals, even beset with the cares of worldly affairs, let us accord him at least a modicum of praise and respect for his very good taste. We will not act amiss in emulating him in everything that pertains to the development and encouragement of the delightful art of gardening. Truly, though it may tire the body, the work of the garden, whether it consists of flowers or vegetables, is a splendid "refreshment" to the spirit of

man. What refreshing sleep! What refreshing thirst and appetite attend upon gardening well done! There is a sufficient blending of the prosaic and the poetical in its work and results to please everybody.

We are just in from setting out our cauliflower, a crop that everyone, it seems, does not grow to perfect satisfaction. Well, wherever there is a failure there is a cause to be found for it somewhere, and we have noticed in recent issues that several correspondents have been asking wherefore?

Cauliflower, like celery and strawberry, is a very thirsty plant. It must have water and plenty of it at a particular time especially, else it will altogether refuse to produce that very excellent "flower" for which the very learned, but exceedingly gluttonous, Dr. Johnson had

set out in the open. For the early crop stocky, well-grown plants should be set out as soon as possible after the severe weather is over. If the soil is not naturally rich enough it should be made so by an application of some good fertilizer—top-dressed about the plants,—say 500 pounds of bone dust (dust, not meal) and 150 pounds nitrate of soda and 200 pounds of kainit (or its equivalent in other potash salts). This much for an acre, and it should be spread evenly between the rows. Then two or three harrowings or hoeings should be given to work in the fertilizer before the mulch is put on. Where only a few hundred plants are grown each plant should receive about two ounces of fertilizer of such a compound as above stated. What cultivation is given should be shallow.

Milledgeville, Ga. SAM. A. COOK.

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#### DWARF MULTIFLORA ROSES.

**A** NEW race of roses,—or strain, if it may be so termed—has lately been produced which is quite peculiar. The marked and novel peculiarity of these roses is that they may be raised from seed to bloom the same year. A very interesting account of them and their culture is found in *La Semaine Horticole*, the substance of which is here given. This remarkable rose has been produced by the crossing of a Polyantha rose with a hybrid remontant or hybrid perpetual. By means of repeated selections there has been obtained an extremely rapid development of the plant from the seed to the blooming state, so much so that flowers are produced the same year of seed sowing, on little plants only six months of age. At first such great vitality seemed

doubtful, but today it should be well understood that this new race forms seeds abundantly, and gives the same year from the seed-bed plants, flowers and fruits. The first flowers, though they are pretty, do not produce as much effect as when they bloom in clusters, which occurs in proportion as the plant develops and from the second year. The flowers are single, semi-double, and even double, like little double buttercups; they present the various shades of color of other roses.

Seed sowing is made from January to March in a cool house temperature; in April the little plants are placed in temporary quarters, either in pots, in a frame, or in a sheltered bed where they can be easily cared for, and are permanently planted out in autumn. The plants commence to bloom when very young, even



DWARF MULTIFLORA ROSES.

such a predilection as to lead him to remark that "Of all the flowers that I know give me the cauliflower." Certainly an excellent vegetable, but not as easily grown as a radish or squash. On dry, thirsty upland with no water facilities it is useless to attempt its cultivation. Cauliflower likes moisture above and below, and, as with celery and strawberry, it is only the cultivator who has control of water who need attempt its culture for market. But in the home garden it is usually feasible to grow a few hundred cauliflowers through the combined means of deep preparation, mulching, and one or two waterings given at the critical period of growth.

The Ideal and the Early Snowball are the best varieties, and the seeds should be sown in cold frames, just about four weeks before the plants are needed to be



in three months after removal from the seed-bed and continue up to frosts. Although the plant blooms the first year, it is not truly ornamental until the second year and after.

The seed of this race of roses is offered in this country by some seedsmen, and it may be as well to say, as a caution, that it is probable that the seeds should be quite fresh to germinate well, or if kept over for some time they should be mixed with moist soil or sand and be stored in a cool place. Beside these there should be at hand the proper equipment and appliances, such as a good greenhouse and cold frames to enable one to care for the plants as they should be. The house-keeper with only a window to raise plants in would not be apt to succeed very well with them.

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#### BEGONIA GLOIRE DE LORRAINE.

WE reproduce from the *Journal of Horticulture* an illustration of a comparatively new variety of begonia, particularly valuable on account of its freedom of bloom and especially for its winter blooming habit. Judging from the illustration it is, apparently, one of the semperflorens type, and can, therefore, be depended upon as having the traits ascribed to it. The following is the

known and distributed there is no reason to think that it will not be grown and appreciated in most establishments.

Floriferousness is one of the chief qualifications of Gloire de Lorraine, and as it produces its charming rosy pink blossoms profusely right through the duller time of the year, this adds greater weight to its value. The habit of the plant is pendulous and graceful, and when grown in shallow pans suspended from the roof of a greenhouse it is seen to best advantage. As a plant for room decoration it

#### NOW FOR TREE PLANTING: ARBOR DAY.

IT is a gratifying thought that we are more and more becoming a tree-planting nation.

Not many decades ago it could be truly said of Americans, in the words of the Psalmist, "A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees." To our ancestors the clearing of lands from trees was a necessity; today we realize the folly of such a clean sweep, even unto nakedness, as was widely made



BEGONIA GLOIRE DE LORRAINE.

account given of it in the journal mentioned:

Perhaps on no class of plants has the art of the hybridist been brought to bear with greater force than on the begonia, the result being that we have now variety sufficient to meet the requirements of the most fastidious. Amongst those kinds which are popular on account of their winter-blooming propensities, the one named may be well placed as one of the best. Being, comparatively speaking, new, this variety has not yet found its way into a large number of private gardens, but as it becomes more widely

may be strongly recommended, as the delicate tint of the flowers is particularly attractive under artificial light. The foliage is elegant without being unduly robust, but it is in the graceful habit and the abundant production of bloom that the usefulness of the variety mainly lies.

To keep up a constant supply of flowers through the winter months is a cause of anxiety to many gardeners; but by growing a quantity of this useful begonia the anxiety may to some extent be lessened, as it is easily propagated and grown, well adapted for decorative purposes, and requires no more elaborate accommodation than that afforded in the ordinary greenhouse.

at their hands. A most wholesome and encouraging reaction is now in evidence, as is manifest in the fact that, according to the last census, more than one billion trees—perhaps fully twenty for every man, woman and child—are being planted every year in our nation. This takes into account only the trees sold from nurseries; add such as are transplanted from the woods and meadows, and those grown from seed by the people, and the annual output represents a large increase above the number stated.

That we have thus become transformed from a nation of tree-destroyers, to a



nation of tree-planters, is an inspiring thought. Do you, reader, belong to this new army of tree planters? If not, we urge you to join ranks and plant a tree or many trees in this month of April. What the aggregate of this work means to our nation, for ages to come, will be to see our homes, highways and landscapes beautified by noble trees; shade and fruit-foods in summer; shelter from the blasts of winter; imparting increased comfort to every living thing, and last but not least, a more equable climate and rainfall.

There is inspiration in the knowledge that judicious tree-planting is work done for the ages. The man who leaves this world, having beautified it with trees to bless those coming after, surely has not lived in vain. Not many of us may be privileged to build enduring monuments of stone, but it is the privilege of each reader of these words to plant a tree or trees, which shall bestow blessing for generations after he has gone.

And what a monument there is in a noble, massive tree! In the words of Doctor Holmes we speak of trees, as we see them, love them, adore them in the fields, where they are alive, holding their green sunshades over our heads, talking to us with their hundred thousand, whispering tongues, looking down on us with that sweet meekness which belongs to huge but limited organisms.

What to plant is a question. In the line of fruit trees, the nurseryman's catalogues, and the experience of one's most successful neighbors, will afford a safe guide in the main. When it comes to planting for shade and ornament, although we find many suitable kinds among the great profusion that nature, through her co-workers, the nurserymen, crowd upon our attention, yet in this place we desire to say a special word for our native trees.

To plant for securing the best results, from the smallest outlay of money, over the longest period, no mistake will be made, by relying largely for planting on the noble trees of our forests. What grander subjects for the home grounds, farm, highway and public garden, than our native elms, oaks, maples, beech, ash, lindens, tulip tree, chestnut and birch; or among evergreens of our spruces, junipers, pines, etc.

Of the many good kinds here alluded to, there is one which we have taken occasion to illustrate, which it would be desirable oftener to meet. The tulip tree is referred to. It is a tree of large size, erect bearing and fine proportions, as the engraving shows. It has exceedingly handsome leaves of singular form and purity of color. Flowers appear in June; they are as large as tulips and always attractive. The tree is found sparsely scattered over a large part of our country and Canada. Its botanical name, as Beecher long ago pointed out, is one of

much beauty, *Liriodendron tulipifera*. One reason why it is not oftener seen is because the tree transplants with some difficulty. On that account it will never be a very common tree, which is the greater reason why it is worthy of some special care on the part of planters. The best success is met in transplanting young trees not over five feet high, and at least once transplanted in the nursery row.

So then with April at hand, and in most of the States an Arbor Day sometime during the month or early in May, a day wisely appointed, in which especially to educate and encourage school children in tree planting, let us all contribute a share toward aiding the noble work of beautifying our beloved land, by planting trees for fruit, for beauty and shelter. \*

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Do NOT depend on the market for vegetables or flowers—raise them yourself.



TULIP TREE—LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA.

#### VERBENAS.

THE verbenas are one of the most beautiful and most satisfactory of garden plants. It is free blooming and fragrant, and embraces a wide range of colors and shades. Its long period of bloom, together with its other fine qualities, makes this plant a very desirable addition to the summer garden.

The plants begin to bloom in May or June and continue until checked by quite severe frosts.

One spring, in my early years of gardening, I was persuaded by a "warm spell" during the last few days of April and the early part of May to rush my garden work along. My verbenas were bedded out about the 3rd of May and the eighth of the same month they were under six inches of snow. Naturally, I thought them ruined, but they came out from beneath their blanket of snow, fresh and smiling, none the worse for it, and quite

ready for their summer's business. The plants can be raised from the seed or purchased from dealers.

If you would be successful in raising good plants that would bloom early, your seed must be new. Old seeds will not germinate. So save your own seed or buy of a reliable florist. If you buy the cheap seed so freely advertised, you are doomed to one disappointment if no more. There are so few seeds in the cheap papers it is hardly worth while to bother with them, and they are quite likely to be old. Plants the seed early—January is not too early. February will do, and positively not later than March. March sown seeds make good plants, but they commence to bloom late.

Do not keep seedlings too warm; a cool, light, sunny and airy situation is best. After the weather becomes warm keep them out doors, on warm, sunny days, in some sheltered situation. This process will harden them so they will not mind the shock of transplanting. A well worked, well enriched bed should be prepared for the seedlings. Most persons advocate the use of old, well decayed, stable manure, but I nearly always use commercial fertilizers, as it is more convenient for me to do so, and think I have quite as good success as I ever had with stable manure.

Naturally of a trailing habit, I set the seedlings in a slanting way, which brings the branches nearly lying on top of the soil. Sometimes if the branches are quite flexible I pin them down with hairpins or small sticks when I transplant them. A very good authority in flower culture says of the verbenas: "A situation where the morning sun will not strike them before the dew is off in the morning is best, as this is one cause of the mildew or rust which so often saps the vitality of the leaves."

If you want to save your own seed, save from some of the first flowers that bloom, a few seed heads from each plant will give you quantities of seed.

If you would have more and larger blooms, cut the blossoms freely—certainly do not allow seed to ripen or the strength of the plants will go to the seed, and you will reap a good harvest of seeds at the expense of thousands of blossoms.

A certain florist says: "Plant verbenas in beds cut in the turf, never on any account plant them in old worn-out garden soil as they will most assuredly fail. Give them change of soil each season as they do not thrive well two years in the same bed." I am sorry to contradict so good an authority but I have, as have also many of my friends, grown verbenas year after year in the same beds. Some years the only care given the beds was to weed well, pulling up the too numerous seedlings as well as the weeds, leaving only enough to well cover the bed when grown, and working into the soil, around the plants left, a little fertilizer. D. L.



## Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. EDITOR.

### Ants Eating Rosebuds.

I have fifty small rose plants and they are doing well, but the small ants eat the buds. I have tried insect powder and tobacco but without effect on the ants. Can you tell me a remedy? Mrs. L. A. P.  
*Los Angeles, Cal.*

Some cotton tied around the stem of each plant would prevent the ants from going up.

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### Geraniums Blooming in Winter.

I would like to say to Mrs. M. R., Franklin, Pa., that I put the geraniums that I want for winter blooming out on a table under a tree in summer, giving plenty of water and pinching off the buds, and giving a little manure water in the spring. They will make a nice growth and be all ready for immediate blooming when brought in, in the fall. Through the winter I water them with almost hot water. In this way my geraniums bloom all winter.  
*Vendalia, Mo.* H. M. R.

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### Cucumber Vine.

I have heard of the cucumber vine but can find nothing of it in your catalogue. Is it a good vine to make rapid growth to form a screen?

*Cucumis odoratissimus* is a quick growing gourd-like plant. Probably the moon flower, or the common morning glory, or the Japanese morning glory would make a greater amount of vine and foliage.

++

### Columbian Raspberry.

I bought two years ago, of you, a Columbian raspberry. It grows so tall I don't know what to do with it. Would it be right to cut off the tops, put up an arbor, or let it run all over the ground? S. H.

The Columbian raspberry is usually cut back to a height of about three feet. But it can be trained upright by being secured to a post, or a trellis made between two posts.

++

### Starting Brazilian Morning Glory.

How should Brazilian morning glory seeds be treated to make them germinate? I tried filing, as recommended in the MAGAZINE, but was not entirely successful.

The seeds need to have the hard shell cut through so that moisture can get to the seeds. This can be done with a file or knife,—filing is easiest. When this is done they will start to grow in a few days.

++

### Seed Beans.—Corpse Plant,

I see a request for a remedy to prevent bugs in seed beans, and I see that a chemical is advised that is not always easily procured. I find that a small quantity of grease, lard or drippings will do, rubbed on after the beans are shelled and are being put away. Sure preventive.

Twice I have seen what I suppose is a flower. It grew in the woods, was transparent, rather like wax; one was without color and the other had dashes of purple. The shape of single hyacinth. J. C. M.  
*West Point, Tenn.*

The plant is *Monotropa uniflora*, sometimes called corpse plant.

++

### Tritoma.

Will you kindly inform me if the tritoma can be grown successfully here in the north, and if so how should it be treated during the winter? A. B.  
*Garrettsville, Ohio.*

The tritoma in central Ohio is nearly or quite hardy. Possibly it may be wintered in the open border if well protected

with a covering of leaves. Where it is found to be not sufficiently hardy to keep over in this way it can be taken up and placed in a box of soil or sand in cool cellar or a pit.

++

### Time to Trim Apple Orchards.

Will you tell in the MAGAZINE the best time to trim trees in apple orchard? N. M. L.  
*Coventry, Conn.*

In all the northern, eastern and western and northwestern States, the best time for pruning the hardy fruit trees is from the first of April to the early part of June. And, anywhere, it is in the spring while the buds are yet dormant and until the first leaves have formed. It is not best to delay it until the new growth is pushing vigorously.

++

### Canna.—Beans.

Last spring I sent to James Vicks Sons for Canna Star of '91. Think there was some mistake, as the plant I received bore that label but has yellow flowers dotted with scarlet. It is lovely! Am well pleased with it and would like to know its name. It did not grow all winter. I cut back the flowering stalk after blooming, and two young sprouts came up, but did not grow until late. When should it be potted?

I enclose a pod of beans; would like to know name of the variety. S. T.  
*Cheney, Wash.*

The canna may be Florence Vaughan. It will be best to plant it out for the summer.

The variety of bean is not known. It looks as if it might be the result of accidental crossing in the garden.

++

### California Violets.

Is it necessary to take them up in the fall? What kind of soil do they require? Do they need much sun? Do they require much water?

Mrs. F. F. W.

No tests have yet been published in relation to the hardiness of the California violets, but they should be expected to stand our winters, at least with a covering of leaves. They are not particular about a certain kind of soil; any good garden soil is suitable for them. All violets do best in a place partially shaded, or shaded during mid-day. They will not thrive in a dry, sterile soil, and a drought is injurious to them, but, on the other hand, they do not require any excess of moisture.

++

### Trumpet Creeper.

Would like to know the most favorable place to set *Bignonia radicans*, whether on sunny side or whether it will do better to be where it will not start so early, as plants and shrubs start so soon here they are apt to get frosted after they are leaved out.

Washington.

C. Y.

We do not know the precise peculiarities of the climate of our enquirer, and cannot therefore give exact advice. But from intimate acquaintance with *Bignonia radicans* think that it will be found to be adapted to the State of Washington generally. If planted on the east side of the house it would not get the sun in the hottest part of the day, and so might be somewhat retarded. But, if there should be danger of a late frost, it would not be difficult to protect a climber by covering it at night with a blanket.

### Garden Edgings.

When an edging of plants is desirable in the garden, one of our correspondents, Evelyn S. Foster, mentions as desirable the following plants: Forget-me-nots, pansies, pinks, daisies and sweet alyssum. Portulaca makes a good edging if care is taken to keep it in place and not allow it to straggle too much. Many other good, low edging plants may be suggested, such as ageratum, lobelia, dwarf candytuft, the dwarf varieties of phlox Drummondii, dwarf asters, golden feverfew, *Oxalis lasiandra* and *O. deppeii*, and then among roses the dwarf polyantha varieties are admirable. But this list does not by any means exhaust our resources.

++

### Fuchsias not Blooming.

Please give me a few directions how to make fuchsias bloom. Mine grow tall and have long branches, look healthy but never bloom. Don't know whether I give them too much or not enough care. S. G.

The plants have probably been kept in a warm room in a dry air, all winter; instead of which they should have been dormant and in the cellar or some cool place. If started to grow in March it would be early enough, and they should have air frequently to prevent spindling growth. Pinching in the ends of the shoots, causing more numerous branching, will be productive of more bloom. As soon as weather permits, put the plants out in the open ground in a shady place.

++

### Fire-blight of Pear Trees.

What is the matter with a pear tree on which the leaves of some of the branches look as if seared with fire? Early in the month of August I could see it ruining the bark on the stem. I cut off the branches and painted the wounds, but it did not stop it. What is the disease and how can it be cured? A. M. N.

The disease is the well-known fire-blight that occurs to some extent wherever pears are cultivated. It is a bacterial disease, and there is no absolute remedy for it. A tree that is once attacked is almost sure to be destroyed by the disease in time. Though this is not always the case when the diseased wood is promptly cut away. The limb or branch should be cut some distance below any sign of blackening. Still the disease frequently progresses to a fatal termination notwithstanding all efforts to check it by pruning.

Concluded on page 89.

## HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian HAIR RENEWER

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

R. P. Hall & Co., Props., Nashua, N. H.  
Sold by all Druggists.





ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL, 1897.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as  
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CHARLES W. SEELYE, Editor.

ELIAS A. LONG, Associate,  
(formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*).

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#### Injurious Insects and National Legislation.

A national convention of horticulturists and entomologists was held in Washington, D. C., March 5th and 6th. The object of the meeting was to agree upon some principles to be recognized in an effort to provide national legislation in regard to the control of insects injurious to fruits and fruit trees. California fruit growers have suffered from a greater variety of insect pests than those of other parts of the country; they also are the agents which have introduced into our eastern cities the pernicious San Jose scale. It has been brought in on California fruit, and especially pears. From the fruits the insects found their way to the fruit trees in several localities in the vicinity of New York city and spread from those centers.

The San Jose scale, *Aspidiotus perniciosus*, is said to infest all the deciduous fruit trees, roses, currants, and gooseberries, and has been also found on the elm, chestnut and walnut. It is apparent that in order to protect any locality from this insect it will be necessary to examine all the fruit and fruit trees brought in and destroy the insects on them, or to destroy the articles themselves. In regard to all importations into the country this fact is recognized by the convention and the inspection of all trees and fruits introduced is made a feature of the proposed legislation. Such legislation is now in

the form of a bill which is to be introduced into Congress at an early opportunity. The bill is composed of ten sections and is supposed to meet the exigencies of the case, and if enacted into law is to take effect on and after the first day of July next.

A very noticeable feature of the proposed law is that in the matter of the examination of fruit, which is carefully guarded in case of importations into the country, no notice is taken of it in interstate commerce; the transit of fruit from one State or locality to another is left as it is at present, and without any regulations whatever. And yet, as already stated, it is by sending California fruits into eastern markets that the San Jose scale is now troubling eastern nurserymen and fruit growers. It is evident, therefore that the proposed law can only be partially effective. There are also some points in relation to the execution of the law that appear defective and which may be positively injurious to the interests of nurserymen. It is better that legislation of this kind should be delayed until the interests of all parties are considered and fairly treated, than to enact it and then find it ineffectual, or to have it disregarded as impracticable.

#### Mustard for Wireworms.

Wireworms have always been troublesome to deal with or destroy directly. Smith's Economic Entomology says that "Stomach poisons are not easily applied, but on an experimental scale it has been found that sweetened dough placed beneath the surface attracts them, and this can be poisoned and used as a trap."

Poisoned cornmeal dough, or fresh clover with arsenic or Paris green sprinkled on it, and placed under blocks or boards, is also another method that has been employed.

Without at this time noticing the indirect methods adopted to destroy the pest, we wish to bring to the notice of our readers a method described by a correspondent in a late number of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. It is the use of common mustard powder in the garden. When it is known that wireworms infest the garden soil, mustard powder or flour can be sowed thinly in the open rows before sowing the seeds. Peas, beans, onions and carrots are mentioned as being protected in this manner. The writer, who had suffered for years from the depredation of these worms in his garden, says:

I now obtain splendid crops without intermission. On one occasion when raking over the ground previous to sowing a crop of Sutton's Early Marrowfats and Sharp's Queen, I found so many wireworms that I put a hundred into a cup and dusted freely some mustard powder over them. In ten minutes they were all dead, pale and motionless. The gardener, who, like most of his class, was a stubborn unbeliever in new remedies, then sowed two rows, and I dusted half of each row with the powder. He covered in the peas, and in a few minutes he

came after me: "I believe, sir, there is something in your powder, for the wireworms seem coming up out of the ground." The result was a remarkably fine crop of peas. From the first day they appeared above the ground the contrast to the undressed portion was undeniable. I am this spring dressing every crop in the same way, including early potatoes.

The use of mustard for the destruction of wireworms has not been hitherto unknown, but the application of it in the manner here described is new.

\* \*

#### Some of our Illustrations.

The engravings from which are printed the illustrations appearing on pages 81 and 83 of this number, were kindly loaned to us by Mr. Samuel C. Moon, of the Morrisville Nurseries, Morrisville, Bucks County, Penn., in whose handsome catalogue, published this spring, they appear with many others. The Morrisville Nurseries date back nearly half a century, during all of which time they have enjoyed an enviable reputation for reliability and honorable dealing. The stock at the present time embraces a very large assortment of ornamental trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and fruit trees.

\* \*

#### Spraying Orchards.

The spraying of apple orchards for the prevention of fungus and the destruction of the codlin moth will probably be neglected by most orchardists this season. The large crop of fruit last year will be apt to obscure the necessity for this treatment, which previously was becoming to be generally recognized. Nevertheless it will be found that only the persistent and careful sprayer is a successful apple grower.

\* \*

**ARBOR DAY.**—Don't delay the planting if the ground and weather are suitable and the trees are on hand. Plant when these are ready, and as for Arbor Day let it be a time for celebrating tree-planting and tree culture, rather than to make it prominent for actual planting.

## Boils

Pimples and eruptions are most annoying in the Spring. They are signs of impure blood and the results of Nature's efforts to make the blood pure. They show that the system needs

**Spring Humors** Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier. Thousands of people heed the warning and resort at once to Hood's Sarsaparilla in the spring. They find it exactly what they need. It purifies, enriches and vitalizes the blood; cures boils, pimples, humors and all eruptions, and leaves the skin clear and smooth.

## Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is sold by all druggists. Price \$1, six for \$5.

**Hood's Pills** cure all liver ills. 25 cents.



# Letter Box.

CONCLUDED.

## Lilies after Blooming.

Please tell me through the MAGAZINE how to treat *Lilium Harrisii* and *L. candidum*, which have flowered in the house during the winter. Should *L. candidum* be allowed to ripen in the pot before planting out?

How should dahlia and gladiolus seed be treated? We all like the MAGAZINE very much. U. E. C. Cannon Falls, Minn.

The lilies after blooming should receive regular attention in watering until the leaves begin to turn yellow, indicating a cessation of growth. Then gradually decrease the water daily until it is stopped. If these bulbs are wanted to pot again for another season they can be left in the pots, keeping them in a shady place, until the first September and then repot them. But we do not advise this course as it will not be found satisfactory. A better way is to turn these bulbs into the garden border in May or June and leave them. Use new strong bulbs for pot culture.

++

## Orange.—Night-blooming Cereus.

I am highly pleased with the improved MAGAZINE, both in reading matter and general appearance.

The orange ordered of you last year was mis-sent. When received was badly dried up, terminal leaves dead, but with careful nursing has grown nicely. Still shows no sign of blossoming. I also have a night-blooming cereus, which I have kept growing continuously for the past dozen years. It is five feet high, a fine plant and a beauty, but has never bloomed. It stands by an east window in the living room during winter, out of doors in summer. Change the earth once a year or two. Have let it rest, without water, this winter. Does it need any special treatment? M. B. K.

Ceres, N. Y.

The orange will probably bloom this summer. A good place to keep it would be on a veranda, in a shaded position.

The night-blooming cereus has been kept growing too continuously. The treatment given it the past winter has been right, and now, from this time on, it should have water and heat. Do not place it out of doors, but give it the warmest, sunniest window you have. If this window by sash or curtain can be separated from the room, so as to shut it in and retain the sun-heat it will be all the better.

++

## Plants for Shady Places.

We have moved into a house that is surrounded with maples and elms, and everyone says we can grow nothing with success under them. Is this true or are there some things that will grow in such a place? C. F. B.

Hartford, Conn.

The greatest trouble in getting things to grow under trees is the roots of the trees. If these run all through the ground and take all the nutriment and the moisture there is little hope of getting much growth on plants under the trees. But it is not always the case that the roots do so effectually use all the soil. If pains are taken to make up rich beds in the spring in such places there are plants that will do well there. Dig the beds

deep and work in plenty of old decayed manure from the stable or the cow yard. Select for the beds those spots that receive as much sun as possible and that are farthest removed from the trees. Petunias will do finely in such shade, and so will fuchsias and tuberous begonias. Try also adonis, the annual chrysanthemums, godetia, mimulus, nemophila, pansy, clarkia and whitlavia. You may also find the polyantha roses to succeed. It is hardly necessary to say that the native ferns could be made to thrive in such grounds.

++

## Various Questions.

1—Is there such a thing as a variegated Kenilworth Ivy?

2—What vegetables are the better for coal ashes?

3—I want to cover a trellis twenty feet long with bloom. Ordinary roses do not do well in our smoky city (Cleveland). Would the Eglantine or wild rose do any better? It is not only for bloom but to hide from view a neighboring side door and driveway.

4—Please give directions for treatment of chrysanthemums on arrival.

5—Also state the most successful treatment for pinks from seed, when to plant, etc.

1—There is a variegated form of *Linaria cymbalaria*, or Kenilworth Ivy.

2—Coal ashes are not of much manurial value, but they can sometimes be applied to advantage on heavy ground. Dug in on such land they act mechanically to loosen and lighten it.

3—The wild rose would probably not be much better than others in the place named. For a permanent screen we know of nothing better than the Virginia creeper, and for a summer screen the moon-flower vine and the morning glory can be advised. As a permanent blooming vine try *Clematis paniculata*. To cover the space as quickly as possible a half dozen plants might be set.

4—Young plants of chrysanthemums when received can have the soil shaken from the roots, be given a bath of slightly tepid water and then be laid in the shade to drain, and at once potted in good soil in small pots, water, and stand in the shade until they have adapted themselves to the change. Then give a light place and encourage growth by careful attention to watering. As soon as the roots reach the sides, shift into pots a size or two larger. Keep free from insects, give a little weak manure water once a week, pinch out the tops, at least as often as repotted, to cause to branch. Pinch off all flower buds until August, and keep the plants growing vigorously all the time.

5—Sow pink seeds as early in spring as the ground can be prepared. After the plants have made a couple of leaves transplant them to a distance of two or three inches apart. Give them a light, rich soil.

\*\*\*

ABUTILON Souvenir de Bonn, according to *Gardening*, proves to be a good summer bloomer, its variegations standing the hot sun well. Used as an edging to a large bed of the canna Egandale the effect was fine.

## LOVE'S BELIEF.

Dear heart and truest, if I die  
Before you do, and over me  
The clover blossoms woo the bee,  
And little violets, sweet as shy,  
Peer through the grass above my face  
To meet your eyes when you come near,  
Lean down and listen. You will hear  
A whisper stirring in the place,  
And in that whisper you will know  
The voice you loved to hear of old,  
Telling the love no words have told,  
And as your footsteps come and go  
About your tasks, the whole day through,  
Love's message, whispered by the flowers,  
Will fill with gladness all the hours,  
For you will know I think of you.  
For well I know that love will thrill  
This frame of mine if I were dead,  
And you came near my grave and said,  
"Dear heart, do you remember still?"  
And when I felt the subtle stir  
Of love that dies not, I would make  
You conscious of the truth, and take  
The flowers for my interpreter.

EBEN E. REXFORD.

\* \*

## ENDIVE.

The endive is usually esteemed as a salad plant, but some people consider it too bitter for that purpose, and Prof. Waugh states in a late bulletin that it makes most excellent greens when cooked. The variety known as the Ever White Curled does not run quickly to seed, and when blanched like celery or cos lettuce by tying up the leaves or drawing the soil up about the plant it makes an attractive salad plant. For eating cooked, however, it is best to take the plants when very young before they have time to make heads and when they are in their tenderest stage. The seed can be sown early in cold frames or in the open ground like lettuce, and of course plants can be grown in from forty to fifty days at any time during the summer, but in the very hottest weather they are not of the best quality. Autumn-grown plants can be taken up with some earth adhering to the roots and stored in a dry cellar or in a cold frame for winter use.—*Garden and Forest*.

# Mother Strength

can only come from proper food and carefulness in diet. Baby strength depends on mother strength.

## PABST MALT EXTRACT

The "Best" Tonic

is the ideal food, for the woman who expects to become — or who is — a mother.

It is the most nourishing, and most easily digested of foods, and helps to digest other foods. In addition, it is a gentle soothing tonic, calms nervousness, cures stomach trouble, and increases the flow and richness of the milk.

Sold by all druggists at 25c. a bottle, or 12 for \$2.50.





### ROBIN NEST BUILDING.

First a wisp of yellow hay,  
In a pretty round doth lay;  
Then some shreds of downy floss,  
Feathers, too, and bits of moss,  
Woven with a sweet, sweet song.  
Up among the leaves so deep,  
Where the sunbeams rarely creep,  
Long before the winds are cold,  
Long before the leaves are gold,  
Bright-eyed stars will peep and see  
Baby robins,—one, two, three.

*Birds.*

\* \*

Now sweet and low the south-wind blows,  
And through the brown fields calling goes,  
"Come Pussy! Pussy Willow!"  
Within your close, brown wrapper stir:  
Come out and show your silver fur;  
"Come Pussy! Pussy Willow!"

\* \*

In with the peas.

Insects prefer the sick plants.

The joys of a garden are pure.

An April hotbed for verbenas slips.

Plant a tree in memory of some one.

Which is your favorite plant, and why?

In the main, depend on well-trying sorts.

Figs are grown outdoors near Niagara Falls.

The oldest printed gardening book dates  
1516.

Snowdrops are prettiest growing on the  
lawn.

Worms in soil succumb to strong lime  
water.

Growers of hyacinths know what sweet-  
ness is.

The Baldwin apple has lost many of its  
friends of old.

The plants for next winter's window gar-  
den had better be now provided.

*Lilium Harrisii* has gotten to be almost a  
common forced flower, from Christmas day on.

Is not America's need more garden lovers,  
who read a well conducted garden journal?  
Now is the time to subscribe.

Why is the famous "Jacque" rose a past  
number for winter forcing? Because Meteor,  
at one-fourth the cost, so well takes its place.

Thousands have been bitten. The peddler  
of rhododendrons, and blue roses, and ever-  
bearing strawberries, etc., had better be avoided.

"I am a ground worm rather than a book  
worm," said an enthusiastic gardener in our  
presence lately. Still he reads the MAGAZINE,  
and urges all his friends so to do.

Teach your children to plant trees. What  
a privilege it is, that any one may plant a tree,  
that shall grow into a noble specimen, to adorn  
and bless this earth after the planter is gone.

To Fair managers. Not a better thing  
could be done in the line of your aims, than to  
include yearly subscriptions to this journal on  
the premium schedule of coming exhibitions.

Date seeds. Do your readers know that  
these start quite readily in a brisk hotbed?  
Sow the seed, and presently you have young

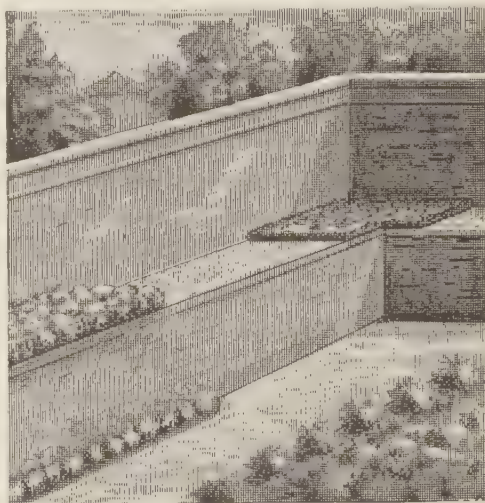
palms, valuable for the window.—*Helen C. M.*

**This is Business.** Last fall my cabbage  
fetched only a ridiculously low price,—could  
hardly give it away. I buried most of it there-  
fore. Lately I have found ready buyers at more  
than double the November price.—*John  
McNair.*

**Lilacs.** Not one or two plants of one or  
two kinds, but we like to recommend a mass of  
a dozen or a score of plants, in as many kinds.  
They never fail to give satisfaction. We know  
what we are talking about for on our grounds  
we have a clump of thirty choice lilacs.

**Sometimes we forget the part that plants**  
play as useful medicines. As early as 1658 the  
faithful old diary-keeper, Evelyn, made this  
entry, June 10: "I went to see ye medical gar-  
den at Westminster, well stored with plants,  
under Morgan, a very skilled botanist."

**This seems fair.** The more subscribers,  
the better any journal can be made. As  
regards this one you, reader, can help. Some  
friend whom you can reach and we cannot,  
would be glad to subscribe if you introduced  
us. Will not you do this? Thank you.



OLD-TIME GARDEN SEAT OF TURF AND SWEET HERBS.

**Novelties.** These are money makers for  
some, money losers for others. Conditions of  
profit: chose carefully, and not too many costly  
kinds. Do not trust them for the crop until  
they have been thoroughly tried in your locality.  
It is assuring to remember that all our best  
kinds once were novelties.

**Some other tree planters.** In England I  
have known rooks to make a hole in the earth  
with their beaks, shove in an acorn, cover it up  
and repeat the same thing until quite a number of  
acorns were set. Squirrels also deposit seeds  
in the soil, some of which undoubtedly grow  
into trees.—*J. H. Wade.*

**Hedges.** If you think of planting one as  
a fence or even for ornament, we say, generally  
speaking, better not. In a coming issue our  
reasons why you had better not, will be clearly  
stated. This item is not against screens, wind-  
breaks, or even the pretty summer hedge, so  
called, of sweet pea and other climbers.

**A \$43 Cherry Crop.** Mr. J. S. Woodward,  
of Niagara County, N. Y., tells us a pleasant  
story of profit in his orchard during last year's  
reign of low prices. He says his cherries,  
all kinds, proved very profitable. He cites a  
single tree from which \$43 worth of fruit was  
last year sold; more, we dare say, than some  
entire apple orchards netted. Pears also paid  
well in that vicinity last year. The lesson:  
Plant a variety.

**What is Bird Day?** It is a day similar to  
Arbor Day, but in behalf of our feathered  
friends. It will be recognized in the public  
schools in many places this year for the first  
time. A suitable programme of exercises con-  
sists of readings and talks pertaining to birds,  
with a view to educating the young to a sense  
of duty in the protection of these delightful  
friends and destroyers of our increasing insect  
foes. All hail to Bird Day.

**Garden seats** that are garden seats, is what  
ye gardeners of olden times delighted in. One  
is figured in the accompanying sketch. It con-  
sisted of a bank of earth thrown against the  
garden wall, the front of which was faced with  
brick or plank to the height of a seat. Then  
the mound was planted at intervals with patches  
of thyme, lavender, marjoram, and other sweet-  
smelling herbs. Between the herbs the benches  
were covered with turf "thick set and soft as  
any velvet." This we learn from Hon. Alicia  
Amherst's recent History of Gardening in  
England.

**One for Brooklyn.** Brooklyn, N. Y., has  
a Tree Planting and Fountain Society. It exists  
for a purpose. It is faithful in the least as well  
as in greater things, for it is taking active steps  
against that common sin against the trees, viz:  
Using them for bill-posting. There is a law  
against the practice in Brooklyn, as there is in  
many places. The Society referred to is enforc-  
ing the law, and thus places that city ahead of  
most others. Tacking bills on trees injures,  
defaces and may destroy the trees. Surely town  
trees have enough odds to contend against  
without this injustice.

## Growing Children

One-third of all the children  
die before they are five years  
old. Most of them die of some  
wasting disease. They grow  
very slowly; keep thin in flesh;  
are fretful; food does not do  
them much good. You can't  
say they have any disease, yet  
they never prosper. A slight  
cold, or some stomach and  
bowel trouble takes them away  
easily.

**SCOTT'S EMULSION** of  
Cod-liver Oil with Hypophos-  
phites is just the remedy for  
growing children. It makes  
hard flesh; sound flesh; not  
soft, flabby fat. It makes  
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**The Gardener's Helper.** This is exactly what this journal designs to be. It wants to make your garden work more interesting and successful. It wants also to win you, student, professional man and invalid, to the fresh air and sun-bath exercise of gardening. It means to be strictly practical. It must be so good that you can hardly await its coming. If you do not find the information in it that you need, ask and it shall be given. This applies to all departments.

**Deal direct** with the consumer when you can. The average produce huckster is a kind of leech. Producers near Buffalo, are known to the writer, who have established a fine paying business direct with consumers, delivering at their homes, with the utmost satisfaction to all parties concerned. In one case last fall, when apples went a-begging at 20 cents per bushel, one such a direct dealer found her customers ready to pay 40 cents per bushel for fine fruit direct from the orchard.

**A Lily Hint.** Not everyone succeeds with the golden-banded Japan lily, *L. auratum*. We

**Co-operation of Producers.** This MAGAZINE is pleased to note every step taken by the raisers of market produce to organize local associations for mutual benefit. One of the latest societies of this kind reported, is that of The Fruit Growers' Association of Wayne County, N. Y., F. L. Reeves, Palmyra, president. The members will co-operate in buying trees, plants, and fertilizers, and in all details of marketing. With wise management, the benefits cannot be otherwise than excellent.

**Planning the Grounds.** A garden well planned adds both to the pleasure and the profit of those who own it, or come in for its enjoyments. As planning is usually done once for all time, it is most important that this be done in accordance with good principles. The writer recalls an instance of a man who hardly ever enters his garden, but he laments how badly it was laid out. The bad planning destroys much of the pleasure he otherwise would draw from his garden. On the other hand, a place well laid out is beautiful and harmonious in all its parts, and we cannot behold it but to admire. It is not the intention within the limits of this article to treat on the subject of garden planning with anything like fulness, that would here be impossible. We desire simply, at this the planting season, to point out by aid of the accompanying engraving or chart, three principles of beauty and economy in garden design, that should be widely recognized. They are fundamental. The first (see bottom section of engraving) applies to pleasure or ornamental grounds, as the home lawn. Here let informality and naturalness be the keynote. Lay such out as to the plantings, mainly in irregular clumps and masses, taking a hint from natural woods and landscapes. With irregular planting adopt irregular curves in the walk, drive and flower bed lines. Second, in the vegetable garden (central section in the engraving) and in the fruit garden (upper section), let regularity prevail. In the former, economy of culture demands that everything be planted most simply in straight lines, of the greatest length the plot will allow. In the fruit garden the object should be to so distribute the trees, that the largest number can be accommodated in a given area, and for providing the greatest possible share of light to each subject. For this the arrangement shown in the upper section, is the best. This chart should be of use, for suggesting correct ideas on the laying out of grounds of every size and description.

**Roadsides in Grass.** This journal can name at least three reasons why it doesn't pay to have roadsides and fence corners in weeds and brush; who can give one in favor? What we advocate is to put in these places grass and clover for mowing. Here are the reasons: First, appearances; a place looks better by far with neat roadsides and fence rows than with them in weeds; second, they breed no weeds to rob your soil and vex your soul; third, certain insects are cut off in a measure. It is now known that the maggot which burrows and lives in the leaves of spinach, beets and other useful plants, likewise lives in, and multiplies through the common pigweed. The pigweed is more favorable to the insect than are the useful plants on which they feed. The less pigweeds the less spinach maggots. Caterpillars often are reared on choke and other useless bushes, to later pass on to cultivated trees. Here let us say, do not neglect the good work

because every neighbor may not join you therein. Observation makes it clear, that certain insects and weeds do not commonly migrate as far from their breeding places as many suppose. Your good example may travel farther than will these bad pests.

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DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS:

The men who print this paper said that I might write you a short letter, to go with it. You may be sure this pleased me, for I think we ought to know each other better, don't you?

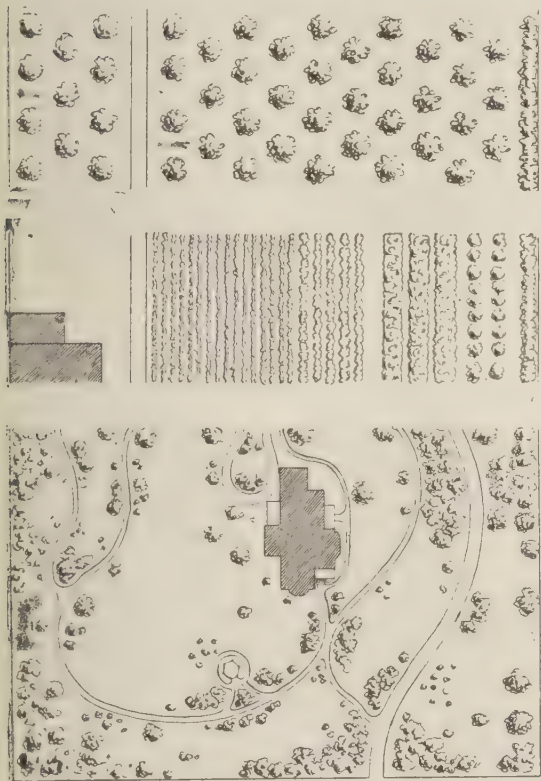
For my part I like much to talk with young gardeners about the good things of gardening. I am a very little fellow, it is true, but must I keep quiet when I have something worth telling? And then I am useful, in fact I don't see how this great world could at all get along without my services. What do you say? How would you, and other folks, ever get a taste of nice, sweet melon that melts in the mouth, or of snowy popcorn, or of toothsome celery that tastes like nuts, and the sight and odor of pansies and sweet peas, and a thousand other of the nicest kinds of things, if my sisters and cousins and myself weren't on hand with the seeds?

And then just notice, please, that it is only good things that we do bring. You don't catch us dealing out weeds and thistles, to make backaches. No, sir; if a single packet did such tricks, it would be disowned quicker than you could say monkey flower.

But I must tell you what makes me very sad at times. It is to have parcels of the choicest seeds ready, only to find that nobody seems to want them. I can't understand it. Here, for instance, are fifty morning glory seeds, which if any boy or girl would be so kind as just to drop into some damp earth, and cover them a little, they would soon show forth their thanks by a lovely crop of flowers. Must such jewels, perfect treasure caskets, remain unused and become good for nothing, when some little gardener could find perfect delight in their marvellous beauty? And to think of how glad the sick would be, for the sweetness that remains hidden in unsowed seeds. Yes, that is the sad side of a seed packet's life.

But I trust that by this first letter, we may get so well acquainted that many of you will gladly aid me in this mission of spreading good things world-wide. Perhaps some of you will take your first step in gardening.

I now must close, with many things yet to say. If this is printed, I will be glad to write again.



PLANNING THE GROUNDS.

didn't, until we struck the plan of setting the bulbs in a bed of low-growing spiraeas and other shrubs. The same was true of other native lilies difficult to grow. There seems to be in such a place just the conditions of shelter and dryness needed by the choicest lilies. Of course, the shrubs should not be so crowded but what some small, clear spaces, if not over a foot or two in size, appear. Plant the lilies there.

**Memorials in Parks.** Judge Alfred E. Cox of Utica, believes that public parks are more suitable places in which to locate the memorials of great men than are family lots in cemeteries, which are virtually inaccessible to the general public. This view is contrary to the higher ideas of landscape gardening art, but it is based on common-sense. The parks are made for man's good in many ways. The remains of President Fillmore repose under a brown granite memorial in a large Buffalo cemetery. We do not believe that one Buffalonian in ten could point a stranger to that memorial.



## FLORAL DECORATION OF BICYCLES.

**S**PRING is here! If you don't believe it, take a run out on the nearest good country roads and two unmistakable evidences of the arrival of this, the loveliest season, you will find on all sides—the bicyclists and the flowers. They come, from their winter seclusion, so close on one another's heels, bringing life and gaiety to the highways so almost simultaneously, that it is remarkable some stronger affinity does not more closely link them together.

The fact is, if you never thought there might be some large profit of interest

it does so introduce you to the best side of nature at all times and seasons.

Usually, however, you fail to make the finest use of your opportunities, for after the handfuls of blossoms are gathered they are tied together, in nine cases out of ten by a pocket handkerchief in lieu of cord, bunched with no more respect to color and grace than if they were a bundle of dried twigs, and so lashed, often enough head downward, to the handle bars. This is truly a good way to carry home a soup bunch or a handful of herbs whose beauty and virtues are supposed to be more than skin deep; but flowers! It is hardly short of sacrilege! The flowers deserve a kinder fate, and so does the graceful machine you ride; and, if you've a bit of taste and patience to spare, or wish to get up some new and tempting spectacle for a garden party, picnic, strawberry festival, or open-air fair for charity's sake, try a floral bicycle parade. Practice for this novel *fête des fleurs* by experimenting a little at bicycle decoration every time your excursions "a-wheel" take you out into floral districts. Never fail to put in your pocket, before setting off, a ball of string and maybe a roll of very fine picture wire, and plenty of pins; and, as you bowl along, give the flowers by the wayside careful attention. From the first of April to the coming of King Frost there is sure to be something glowing in garden or field—something you can beg at a gate, on the plea that you are "A poor child of the city," or something the meadows will supply you for the mere picking. Be sure not to scorn anything that blooms—dogwood, mountain laurel, wild carrot (call it "lace flower," it sounds better), swamp lilies, and eglantine will work into effects as charming as ever the aristocratic garden rose, proud marigold or big zinnia produced. It is the skill and taste with which you apply your materials that count, whether they are

Daisies pied and violets blue,  
Lady-smocks all silver white,

or

A primrose by the river's brink.

As a proof of this, look at what a little maid in the far west, whose talent for artistic arrangement seems as great as her love for wheeling, did with common field daisies. Hers is the

true spirit of the flower-loving cyclist, for while out on the road, near her home, she



WHEELS AND WINGS.

*A very ingenious and attractive decoration fastened to the upper bar, the wings being made of stiff wire and covered with light muslin, the holes looking like spots. A butterfly body, lashed to the head, steadies and keeps them in place. In the illustration the right wing does not show.*

and amusement derived from the applying of garden posies and hedgerow blossoms to your handsome safety, adding thereby great beauty to your steel steed and inspiring genuine and general public admiration, just halt a minute, oh, cyclist of either sex, and hear how easily and prettily it may all be accomplished.

In the first place,—taking it for granted you are a man or woman with a love of beauty in your soul,—your bicycle is unflinchingly, these many months to come, going to carry you past fragrant gardens and down lovely lanes where you cannot, for the life of you, resist springing from the saddle to beg or borrow a handful of the exquisite, dewy, fragrant things. This is one of the blessings of the wheel, that



FIELD DAISIES.

*The daisy chain is easily made, and is very effective.*

tripped into the dotted field and gathering a goodly bouquet, rested while her deft



FAIR FLOWERS.

*A crosspiece lashed to the handle bar makes good opportunity for floral display,—stout cord and ingenuity will do the rest. The Japanese umbrella may be delicately draped with smilax, etc.*



fingers, with cords and tough grasses, wove a daisy chain to cross her breast like a royal order. A bouquet on the wheel's head is the only other ornamenting touch, but the tableau she presents is something that surely excites the admiration of every passer-by. She undoubtedly found, as everyone does who tries, that a bicycle seems almost deliberately designed to facilitate floral decoration. It presents a perfect framework on which to bind and wreath masses of flowers without in the least interfering with the easy movement of wheels and pedals,—which, naturally, must be always left quite free,—and the flowers, if rightly adjusted, need not add anything more than imperceptible weight.

All this argument is put forth in the earnest hope that when a couple, or a group of a half dozen or more cyclists, set out on a long holiday run in the country (unless they are men bent on speeding from point to point,) they will not come home, in the cool of the evening, loaded with vast, wilted bundles of useless blossoms. Instead, where the company is a mixed one, of congenial men and women, or all of one sex, and the run is just for a day or even for a few hours duration, they will at the "rest up" before turning homeward, or when stopping for lunch, forage a bit for flowers, have out with the cord and fall to decorating the safeties.

This is a fascinating and never wearisome recreation at the "rest up," or lunch camp. Everybody strives with elaborate or simple effects, to quite out-rival, in most friendly competition, their companions. One young man can decide to decorate his athletic person to resemble a

into an admiral's fatigue cap by simply covering it with flowers, laid on flat and so close together as to hide all its wool top and visor; and then strings of flowers must be caught on one shoulder to drape across and hang with many ends on the left or right breast. Pieces of paper cut in the form of circles, Maltese crosses and stars, covered with blossoms, set on flat and pinned all along one shoulder, answer as to the warriors orders; and epaulettes, made of strings of blooms attached to small flat bouquets set upon the shoulders, admirably simulates the genuine thing. Rows of blossoms, applied in the right places, indicate chevrons; a sword-belt can also be made of flowers, a sword added, in the form of a fresh peach stick bearing the floral wreath of peace; and military trouser stripes done in apple blossoms, or whatever comes handy. A piece of the stiff brown paper that wrapped the luncheon sandwiches, it cut in the requisite shape and mounted on a stick, then covered with flat blossoms and fastened to the steering head, shows the

flag under which this warrior cycles, while his favorite colors can be wreathed in and out of the spokes, over the handle bar

and used to outline the diamond frame. This was a costume actually worked out in flowers by a young man for his sister, who from her little cycling bag's "housewife" supplied needle and thread with which to aid him in stringing and sewing on the floral decorations. The young lady came home roundly cheered through the village streets as Little Bo-Peep. Her hat was wreathed with dandelions, flowers were woven into the long braids down her back; a crook she had made in the woods, entirely of flowers, and strapped it across her back with a wreath of roses crossing her breast and shoulders. The mudguards of the wheel were hidden under yet more dandelions, and a lace-work of fern fronds made the wheels seem as if wrought of delicate emerald lace.

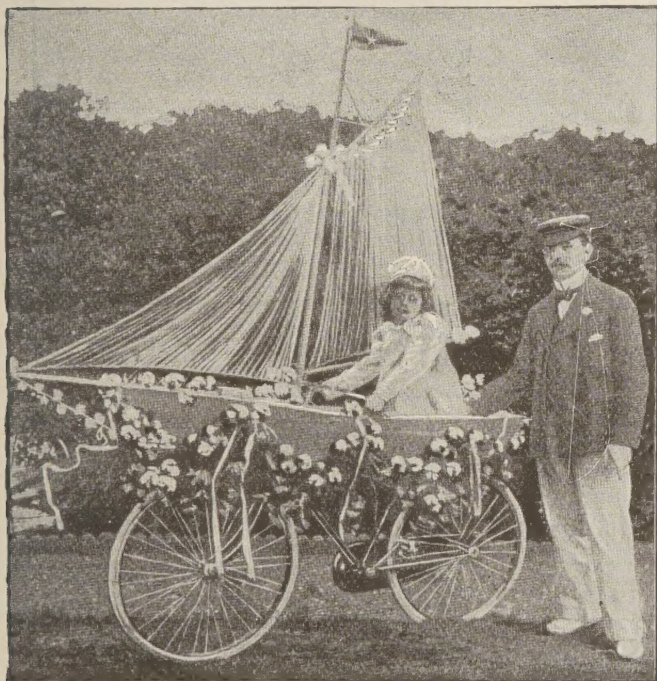
It is not necessary, however, when decorating in so impromptu a manner, to

attempt always to work out some distinctive character. If you cannot think of something readily, by way of a floral disguise, lavish all efforts on the wheel



PATRIOTIC DECORATION.

*In England, scarcely a procession but that has a "Britannia," with shield and flag.*



THE CYCLE BOAT.

*Made of light frame work, covered with muslin. Open space in the center for upper part of frame, and the rider.*

general or admiral. It is easily done by using daisies, apple blossoms, dogwood flowers, in fact almost anything that is blooming near. The cycling cap is turned

itself. The mudguards, handle bar and post, and part of the drop frame, as well as the forks below the seat post, can all be easily trimmed with blossoms; and by using long-stemmed flowers the wheels can be made to appear as if chiseled wholly from rosy eglantine petals or starry daisy faces. A few short straps around these different parts make it easy. One of the easiest and altogether most captivating schemes of decoration is to cut a long willow wand and with ferns and flowers wholly enwreath it; then bend in an arch over the seat, fasten the ends firmly to the sides of the saddle, so that when you are seated and pedalling the arch of flowers rises over your head and quite encircles you. Another hoop, but of course far smaller, can be thrown across the handle bar; a third can spring out from the top to the bottom of the head, and a fourth loop from the back of the saddle to the end of the rear wheel's dress guard.

But if with a little ingenuity and string, a jack-knife, plenty of flowers, and an hour's idleness under the green-wood tree after a ten mile run suggests these notions, how about the possibilities when planning for the glories of a floral cycle parade. These reviews of decorated wheels have become an important feature of bicycling life in England. Great



taste and some outlay of time and money is lavished on the beautifying of every wheel, and to the owner of the richest, the most unique, or the most lovely arrangement, prizes are given at the fairs or carnivals.

"Wheels and Wings" and "The Cycle Boat" are illustrative of the limits to which at once graceful and unusual decoration can be carried. "Fair Flowers" is an exemplification of the effects to be had by the careful use of roses, greenery and a little ribbon, while the "Patriotic Decoration" is one example of the inviolable Britannia appearing in all the English bicycle parades, to see which crowds readily gather.

Whether under the stimulus of prize offers or merely to gratify a natural love for decoration, bicyclers can derive double pleasure from their wheels in following the example of the English cyclists and those of their American brothers and sisters who have adopted this commendable custom. How easy it would be for a slender girl to represent "Liberty," and trim her safety in red and white roses and larkspurs or gentians, wear a skirt of red and white striped bunting, a dark blue bodice strewn with white or silver stars, and the red Phrygian cap of Liberty on her curls. To complete the picture she could hang from the flower-wreathed handle bars a pair of floral scales, bear in one hand a globe of red, white and blue flowers, and at her side a blunt-pointed silvered sword wound with roses.

Undoubtedly one of the prettiest bicycle decorations ever tried was that of "La Cigale." All the wheel was garlanded in buttercups, daisies, cowslips, dandelions, "black-eyed Susans" and ragged robin; and fastened among the flowers were big paper grasshoppers, some of them with dazzling gauze wings, while the rider, in white muslin and a wide-brimmed hat wreathed in natural flowers, carried a guitar of flowers across her shoulders slung by a floral ribbon.

A young man can make his mark in a parade of wheels by appearing as Father Winter. For himself a long white beard and suitable white canton flannel robes are required, while the bicycle must be wound with cotton crystallized, and glass icicles hanging from every point.

Just as suitable, for a man, is "Father Time," when the wheel ought to be entirely covered with southern moss, gray lichens, etc., while the rider wears on his bent back a scythe, and makes in flowers a model of an hourglass on the steering head.

MARGARET L. BISLAND.

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#### GREEN GRASS GROWING.

April sings to every heart  
While she weaves the grass;  
We think her just a sonsy lass,  
As she plies the housewife's art.  
Brodering flowers in every part,  
Soon the fields our dreams surpass;  
April sings to every heart,  
While she weaves the grass.  
March, the mimic, plays the part  
Of this tender-hearted lass;  
He sings the songs, he weaves the grass,  
Laughing till the quick tears start;  
Like April, sings to every heart  
While he weaves the grass.

E. M. S.

\*\*\*

#### PRIMULA OBSCURICA.

In addition to the value attaching to this plant for blooming so freely under glass at this season of the year, must be added, says R. D. in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, that of the blossoms standing well in a cut state, with the addition that the partly expanded buds will open out when the flower-stems are in water. It is as free of blossom as a double white *Primula sinensis*, and like it, it is successful as well; and the flower-stems being long, they are well adapted for home decoration in various ways. So far but comparatively little variation has appeared among seedlings. The blossoms of some are larger, rounder, and stouter than others, and there is a tendency to deepen the tints of some individuals to something approaching mauve. Supposed crosses with *P. sinensis* are doubtful, and perhaps it would unite better with *P. Sieboldi*; at any rate, the experiment is worth making.

\*\*\*

#### GRAPE-SEED-SWALLOWING NONSENSE.

"Don't swallow the grape-seeds, for they may get into your vermiform appendix, and death or at least the surgeon's knife follow." How many times that warning has been sounded in recent years. We have no doubt whatever that it has lessened the use of one of the healthiest fruits under the sun, because few grape eaters, and especially children, will spew out the seeds even at the risk of appendicitis. So they mustn't have grapes. Perhaps even less grapevines have been planted as a result of the scare, for scare it is and nothing else. In thousands of operations which have taken place, to remove the diseased appendix in the human subject, some of them successful, many of them too late—there is not one authenticated case of any grape or other seed or any foreign body being found in the organ. The reason is obvious, for the interior of the appendix is big enough to admit only a medium sized darning needle. It is time therefore that the public knows the fact that danger from grape-seeds is absolutely groundless. Let us not give up planting and urging others to plant the vines, fearing the race's extinction because of grape-seeds in the appendix. Swallow the seeds if you like, and let the children swallow them. To most persons grapes are not grapes when the pulp is freed from seed.

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but the gown is now made new  
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THE FAMILY COZY-CORNER

Success with Swainsonia.

I would like the lady who wrote about her swainsonia in last month's MAGAZINE to try my way in caring for it. I mixed leaf-mold, rotten cow-manure and garden soil together (one-third of each), and planted it in a small wooden tub. I keep it in as cool a place as possible, in sitting-room, register shut most of the time, heat comes from dining-room. I take it to the sink, and, holding it sideways, sprinkle it well with almost cold water. Do not think its roots like too much water, but its branches delight in a bath. It stands in a west window where it gets all the afternoon sun. I pinch it back freely until it branches as much as I like to have it, then I let it grow and blossom. When I see from two to three clusters of tiny buds I pinch the top of the branches so that the clusters will be large. It is one of the grandest window plants I ever saw. I have cut twenty clusters at a time from mine, and the foliage is beautiful, but it needs attention. After it gets large I let it grow one way, I do not keep turning it around to the light.

Barre, Mass.

C. K. G.

A Friendly Letter.

Received your seeds, and thank you kindly for sending the extra. I am a dear lover of flowers and they grow splendidly with me, and Vick's seeds and plants have stood No. 1 for years. My mother was one of your father's first floral friends, and many a letter he has sent her to thank her for the help. She would send in more orders then I can get, for seed is sold at the store and charged on the book, so it is hard for me to get orders. Now, one word about the MAGAZINE. You wanted us all to say what we thought: If you would leave out the advertisements from the floral part so they could be bound, I think that would be a great improvement, for we don't like (I speak for others) to read a piece of floral talk, and then pills and plasters. And now, I will ask if you cannot do another thing to help all who love flowers, and that is put in the names pronounced, everyone has not a Botany. They call or-ni-thog'-alum "or-nith-tho'-ga-lum," and ox'-a-lis "ox-al'-is," and a great deal more. When I tell them, they say "I wish they would pronounce them, then we can learn them aright." Your father printed three or four

pages of names pronounced, and I am sorry I did not think of it when mother died, and preserve the list, but it is lost now, I suppose. I hope I have not taken too much time. If I have I beg pardon.

North Attleboro, Mass.

MRS. E. R. N.

Flower Chat.

How refreshing appears the cheertful face of Vick's Floral Guide for '97. I turn through its pages to find our old friends and catch glimpses of new delights yet to be enjoyed.

The Abutilon Souvenir de Bonn deserves all the good words bestowed upon it. I have had splendid success with it and find it easy of cultivation, beautiful in flower, and the handsomest ornamental plant I have ever grown. This plant has attracted more attention than any plant I have.

Another plant I am quite in love with is Fuchsia Little Beauty. I received a tiny plant, not three inches high, full of buds in February, '96, and the plants bloomed continuously all summer and fall and was still in flower when stowed away for winter. It bore from twenty-five to forty perfect blossoms all during the driest, hottest days of summer when all but the coleus and verbenas had given up. Every flower lover should try the Little Beauty.

One other plant of last year was a new acquaintance of mine and has become one of the regulars. I refer to Swainsonia alba or pot sweet pea. I do not think it so much resembles the sweet pea, however, as it does the sweet, white sprays of our childhood's love, the common locust. They are indeed minatures of this; the leaves, too, are dainty fern-like representations of this same tree.

I have had good success with plants from seed the last two years. I used to raise the most miserable, scrawny plants imaginable, but my Dutch neighbor says "I now haf the luck," and have particularly been blessed with my Marguerite carnations,—out of twenty-five plants were fifteen double, six semi-double, and only four single. Some of the double ones were as handsome as the expensive carnations of the florist. In fact I had among my plants a pretty good Daybreak, an excellent Silver Spray and a rich red Portia. Besides these there were handsome varieties, striped, splashed and mottled with various beautiful colors. Rich creams splashed with crimson, pink spotted with white, etc. One plant in particular produced unusually large, full and very fragrant flowers of a soft sea-shell pink, delicately fringed.

The children plead for just one look more of the new catalogue, and Vivian says, with longing looks at the Rathbun on the outside cover, "O, for a dish full with cream and sugar all over them!" I. M. H.

A Few New Plants.

Every year I like to try a new geranium or two, even if they are considered by some to be "dreadfully old-fashioned." Last year I tried Phil Heile, Peter Crozy and Pretty Jane. All of them are single. Phil Heile has an enormous truss of crimson flowers with just a shade of purple. It has proved a very good winter bloomer. The trusses are so large and perfect and the color so rich it is very noticeable among the other varieties.

Peter Crozy has not blossomed this winter, but was very pretty last summer. The foliage is crisp, like an ivy leaf, but the flower is a bright scarlet.

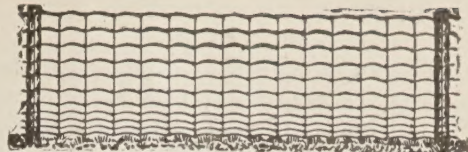
The Pretty Jane blooms summer and winter. It is rose color with a magenta shade. Grows good shape and is quite a favorite.

I have found the nicotianas, affinis and decurrens, to be very desirable for the window. N. affinis grows tall and blossoms freely. Decurrens is smaller, but branches so much that the bloom is really more profuse. The sweet-scented, star-like flowers are alike in both. They are long, tubular, pointed like a star and borne in clusters well above the foliage. It flowers well without the direct sunshine, so is particularly valuable for north windows, or for windows shaded by a piazza. It is one of the easiest plants to grow, and when kept in pots and cut back occasionally will thrive for several years. It is easily grown from seed, even in the open ground, but the potato-bug is such an ardent lover of both foliage and flowers it requires a constant fight to save them from its ravages. Paris green will protect them if one is persistent in its use, and the sweetness of the stary flowers on a summer evening pays amply for the outlay of time and strength required to save them.

The Bermuda Buttercup Oxalis has proved quite satisfactory. The flowers are such a clear yellow it is desirable for winter, when yellow flowers are scarce. It has proved a free bloomer and its trailing habit makes it a pretty bracket plant. Like all varieties of oxalis it revels in sunshine and blooms much freer in a sunny window. Mine blossomed in a surprisingly short time after planting. The bulbs were so small it hardly seemed possible they were of blooming size, but the cheerful yellow flowers appeared so suddenly I was convinced they understood their business.

Abutilon Souvenir de Bonn has proved a treasure. Its bright green leaves, edged with creamy white, are beautiful, and if it is pinched back and not allowed to become "leggy" it is quite free blooming.

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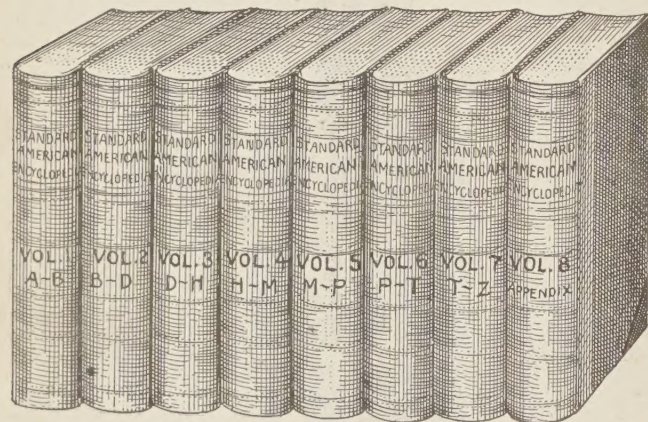
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